

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A method for preventing tipping of a flower pot formed of an open top container having a generally vertical wall formed with an upper edge portion and having a substantially closed bottom for resting the pot upon the ground in an area where the pot may be subjected to lateral forces, which can tip the pot, comprising:

providing a retainer of a thin, bendable, but relatively stiff wire rod, formed in the shape of a vertically-elongated, substantially straight, unbent, stem portion and with the stem portion having an upper end portion bent downwardly into a hairpin-like formation to form a downwardly opening, inverted U-shaped hook portion and extending at an angle toward the adjacent stem portion; with the hook portion having one leg formed by the stem portion, and having a short leg for extending downwardly adjacent the stem portion, with the leg portions being spread apart for holding the wall upper edge portion between them while the short leg may extend downwardly into the pot and into any potting material contained in the pot while the substantially straight, unbent, stem portion extends downwardly alongside of the pot and continuing for a distance relative to the pot for extending into the ground;

resting the pot upon a ground surface;

engaging the hook portion over the upper edge portion of the pot and resiliently grasping the rim portion for tightly fastening together and extending the rod

downwardly from the hook portion closely adjacent to the outside surface of the pot wall while the pot is resting upon the ground surface and pushing the stem portion downwardly alongside of the pot and continuing for a distance relative to the pot so that a lower portion of the stem portion enters into the ground a sufficient distance to hold the pot against tipping.

2. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in claim 1, and said wire rod being formed of a relatively resilient wire material, and arranging the hook portion to receive and resiliently grab the upper edge portion of the pot wall between the legs of the hook portion.

3. (original) A method as defined in claim 1, and including providing a second retainer, similar in shape to said first mentioned retainer, and engaging the hook portion of the second retainer with the upper portion of the pot wall at a location spaced from the first mentioned retainer and then into the ground for temporarily holding the pot in a fixed position upon the ground at spaced-apart locations.

4. (original) A method as defined in claim 1, and wherein said pot has a downwardly tapered wall, and including arranging the stem closely adjacent to the side wall of the pot, at an angle corresponding to the angle of the pot wall.

5. (Previously presented) A method as defined in claim 1, and with said hook portion including pushing said short leg downwardly into potting material contained in the pot when engaging the hook portion over the upper edge portion of the pot while the stem lower portion enters into the ground.

Claims 6-14 (Cancelled.)